



## **OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING Upper Lake, CA 95485**

**February 28, 2014**

**STAFF REPORT:** General Plans Update

**STAFF:** Dan Canfield, Planning Manager

**SUBJECT:** Status of General Plans for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

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### **Summary**

Several of the State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs) are in the process of updating their park general plans. A general plan directs the long-range development and management of a park by providing broad policy and program guidance. This guidance is essential to the SVRA managers and staff, and is of value to those organizations and individuals who have an interest in the SVRA. SVRAs must have an approved general plan before funding can be appropriated for any major capital outlay projects to build new facilities in a park unit.

### **Discussion**

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5002.2, California State Parks is generally required to prepare general plans for units of the State Park System (e.g., SVRAs) prior to the development of new facilities. In 2007, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division performed a review of existing general plans for the SVRAs and determined that six SVRAs needed to initiate or update their general plans. A contractor was secured to prepare some of the general plans. A table identifying the status of the SVRA general plans is provided as an attachment to this report (see Attachment 1).

Following is a brief summary of recent SVRA general plan developments:

#### **Ocotillo Wells SVRA:**

The Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan team hosted two public workshops in support of the Ocotillo Wells General Plan update. Workshops were conducted on December 28, 2013, at the Ocotillo Wells SVRA Discovery Center, then on January 9, 2014, at the Carlsbad Senior Center in north San Diego County. The workshop at the Discovery Center had 173 participants, and the Carlsbad meeting had 62 participants.

Workshop attendees learned about the general plan process, received information on the draft planning alternatives, and provided valuable public input. The draft general

plan alternatives are available for review and comment on the project website, [www.PlanOcotilloWells.org](http://www.PlanOcotilloWells.org) through March 10, 2014.

Additionally, Working Paper #4 has been posted to the project website. Working Paper #4 presents a “Parkwide Planning Framework” and “Area-Specific Planning Alternatives” that are being considered as part of the Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan Update process. The Parkwide Planning Framework provides a comprehensive approach to evaluate management decisions that affect visitor experience and recreation opportunities; interpretation and education; park use and operations; and natural, physical, and cultural resource management for all of Ocotillo Wells SVRA. The Area-Specific Planning Alternatives highlight a range of potential management policies that are being considered for specific areas of Ocotillo Wells SVRA. The Area-Specific Planning Alternatives allow a tailored management approach to best fit the character and needs of each area. Together, the Parkwide Planning Framework and Area-Specific Planning Alternatives allow different management options to be considered before developing and adopting an updated General Plan for Ocotillo Wells SVRA.

#### **Carnegie SVRA:**

The Carnegie SVRA General Plan team hosted a public workshop on November 12, 2013, to present the draft preferred General Plan concept. The workshop was held in Pleasanton at Amador Valley High School. The following Saturday, the General Plan team set up an information station at the Carnegie SVRA MotoMart to present materials from the workshop and solicit public input on the draft preferred General Plan concept. The workshop materials were also available for review and comment on the project website [www.CarnegieGeneralPlan.com](http://www.CarnegieGeneralPlan.com) through December 13, 2013.

The input received at the workshops and online activities are helping to refine the General Plan concept. A draft General Plan and draft Environmental Impact Report are tentatively scheduled for spring 2014.

#### **Prairie City SVRA:**

The Prairie City SVRA General Plan team conducted an online workshop through the Prairie City General Plan project website: [www.PrairieCityGeneralPlan.com](http://www.PrairieCityGeneralPlan.com). The online workshop, which ended on January 16, 2014, allowed participants to provide their thoughts on the future of Prairie City SVRA.

#### **Commission Action**

For information only

#### **Attachments**

Attachment 1: SVRA General Plans Update – February 2014

## OHMVR DIVISION

### State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plans Update February 2014

Park Unit	Adopted	Amended	GP Status & Updates in Progress
Carnegie SVRA	1981	-	GP update underway including Alameda-Tesla properties. Preferred concept public workshops conducted in November/December 2013.
Clay Pit SVRA	2012	-	Approved by the OHMVR Commission June 2012.
Heber Dunes SVRA	2011	-	Approved by the OHMVR Commission December 2011.
Hollister Hills SVRA	1978	2003	-
Hungry Valley SVRA	1981	-	GP update pending, including new and proposed acquisitions.
Oceano Dunes SVRA	1975	1991	-
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	1981	-	GP update underway including newly acquired properties. Planning alternatives public meetings conducted in December 2013/January 2014.
Prairie City SVRA	1991	-	GP update underway. Concept alternatives online workshop conducted on project website ended January 15, 2013.